

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA
Public Meeting Room C
Delta Township Administration Building
7710 West Saginaw Highway
Lansing MI 48917

TOWNSHIP BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER –

Supervisor Fletcher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

Members Present: Supervisor Kenneth Fletcher, Treasurer Howard Pizzo, Clerk Mary R. Clark and Trustees Karen Mojica, R. Douglas Kosinski, and Dennis Fedewa.

Members Absent: Trustee Jeff Hicks.

Others Present: Township Manager Richard Watkins, Assistant Director Community Development Department Gary Bozek, and Deputy Manager Jenny Roberts.

TREASURER PIZZO MOVED TO EXCUSE TRUSTEE HICKS FROM THE JULY 14, 2014 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING.

TRUSTEE MOJICA SUPPORTED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 6-0.

III. SET/ADJUST AGENDA –

Trustee Hicks arrived at approximately 6:03 p.m.

Trustee Fedewa would like to add an item for discussion to the agenda regarding the Board of Water and Light.

TRUSTEE KOSINSKI MOVED TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH ITEM #5 ADDED UNDER ITEMS OF DISCUSSION – BOARD OF WATER AND LIGHT.

TREASURER PIZZO SUPPORTED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 6-0

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT –

Jim Osieczonek, 316 N. Creyts Road, Eaton County Commissioner District 5 and member of the EATRAN Board. EATRAN was formed in 1980 mostly to assist people with disabilities. Today the program is a dial-a-ride system although, the system has stayed relatively the same for the purpose of the program. EATRAN has an annual budget of approximately \$2.4 million. Approximately of which,

\$800,000 is from a millage. CATA SPECTRAN and EATRAN operate at about the same range of \$22-24 per hour. As the Township Board discusses transportation issues, please note the potential of duplication of services between SPECTRAN and EATRAN. There is a substantial cost to duplicate service. Please look to extending services with CATA but, retain EATRAN as the dial-a-ride service within Delta Township and save duplication costs.

Carlene Wagner, 9415 Nixon Road, EATRAN Board Member, addressed the Township Board regarding the three proposals and the lack of evening services not appearing in the proposals. Ms. Wagner wanted to clarify that this was lacking in the proposals.

V. MANAGER'S REPORT –

There is a current situation in Player's Club on Red Cliffe Drive and there is a driveway that is washing away. This is causing problems with the cutter and the roadway there as well. This is an ongoing issue with the Road Commission and the Drain Commission. As a result, the Township Engineering Department has investigated and will be meeting with the Road Commission to further the investigation as to the cause of the problem this week.

The East-West Pathway, on the west side of the bridge seems to be sinking. There will be a temporary fix to the situation. There is now a lip before you get onto the boardwalk. A permanent fix is in the works. This is not the same situation where there was washout which is on the east side of the bridge. This fall there will be additional plantings along the trail.

Thank you all for the retirement celebration and Manager Watkins found the experience very humbling. The event was certainly appreciated.

VI. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION –

1. Zoning Ordinance Update, Carlisle/Wortman Associates – Planning Team

Gary Bozek, introduced representatives from Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Mr. John Enos and Ms. Laura Krepps. Mr. Enos has been working with staff for the last several months regarding the update. Carlisle/Wortman has been in business for over 25 years and there are approximately 27 planners on staff and a couple of business offices in which the company operates within the State of Michigan.

Carlisle/Wortman looks forward to working with the Township Staff, the Planning Commission and the Township Board to reach a final result.

Ms. Krepps described the process for the Board that will be undertaken to reach the final outcome. This would include extensive usability via the internet, the

removal of conflicting language, improve the table of contents with hyperlinks, leaving alone what is not broken and provide all necessary legal updates. Further, a review of each of the zoning districts and how they may be consolidated or changed will be conducted. Restrictions with each district will be reviewed for potential modifications such as parking guidelines and the like. Flexibility will be a focus in regards to any restrictions imposed.

Trustee Fedewa would like some consideration provided for pedestrian accessibility within a zone. This would support increasing the walkability of the community. This is currently addressed now within site plans for each project.

Trustee Kosinski would like to see the project fully integrated with all other avenues and activities of the Township such as the Strategic Plan, redrafting of the sign ordinance and other efforts to attract new residents of the Township. This should ensure conformity and that all plans support and complement each other for their intended purpose. He feels focusing on the transition from one zoning district to another is important as well. The transitions should be seamless.

Treasurer Pizzo would like to emphasize there is also a Comprehensive Plan which is different than the Strategic Plan. The focus on the economic viability of the Saginaw Corridor is very important. Zoning ordinances in this area has to focus on encouragement of development. As well as completing streets.

Trustee Hicks would like the consultants to receive input from the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Commission as well. There are several individuals who have significant institutional knowledge to contribute to the task at hand.

Trustee Fedewa would like blight business properties to be addressed if at all possible. This would be beneficial to the Township. This will be reviewed by the team.

2. Proposed Senior Government Council Discussion – Resident Gloria Kovnot

Ms. Gloria Kovnot, 10803 Canterbury Lane, addressed the Board regarding the senior citizen population within the Township. She would like to see a government senior council formed of 7 council members. This council could then meet with a staff liaison once per month and she would prefer this individual to be Jen Roberts.

Supervisor Fletcher would like to have the Board review the material and have a Board discussion in this regard. He feels at this point there is a separate issue between the neighborhood groups and senior group. He would like to further explore this with the Board.

Trustee Fedewa feels that there are issues with staff resources. However, there should be serious consideration given to the issues she has raised.

The age would be 50+ for the group.

Treasurer Pizzo can see where the seniors can contribute to the Township. But he does support a diverse neighborhood association. He feels the time available to seniors would be a direct benefit with the neighborhood association as young families are often busy with work and children.

Trustee Kosinski, as a senior, this council has his interest. Such a group would provide additional balance to the Township. The senior group could be a valuable resource with valuable input to the future of Delta.

Trustee Hicks feels the proposal should be reviewed and the role of the group in the future will define itself. Having too much structure in the beginning could limit the creative ability of the group and its functions.

Supervisor Fletcher suggested Ms. Kovnot return with a formal proposal. Ms. Kovnot reached out to Jen Roberts for assistance in completing that task. The matter will return to the Board for consideration at that time.

3. CATA Service Proposal – Richard Watkins

Supervisor Fletcher gave a brief synopsis of prior discussions to provide joint efforts with CATA and EATRAN which were unsuccessful. Manager Watkins has met with CATA in an attempt to move the transportation issue forward. There are a few proposals available to see if there is anything the Township Board is interested in pursuing. The bottom line is the transportation needs are still ongoing.

Manager Watkins indicated that improvement of transportation has been an ongoing issue during his tenure at the Township. He would have liked to have seen more progress made in this regard prior to his retirement. At this time there are a few proposals available for discussion.

EATRAN has decided not to work with CATA in regards to improvements within Delta Township. As a result, Manager Watkins began working directly with CATA.

Redi Ride is very similar to the dial-a-ride of EATRAN and SPECTRAN is only for the handicapped and elderly.

Service times can be adjusted at any point during the contract. The information is a starting point. This proposal provides information regarding the funding available for such services.

Route 12 from CATA is now being extended by Lansing Community College from Home Depot to expand services from the City of Lansing into Eaton County. This is the result of an agreement with LCC and CATA. This is offered only when school is in session.

JARC (Job Access and Reverse Commute) funding is for a three year program. At that point a millage may be possible to obtain the necessary funding.

Supervisor Fletcher inquired about a marketing strategy for the residents of Delta if this moved forward. Manager Watkins said this has not been explored at this time but would be part of the project as the services launched.

Treasurer Pizzo seems to feel this is reasonably possible.

Supervisor Fletcher confirmed this service was not limited to certain groups in any way. Manager Watkins said this was an all-inclusive service the residents of Delta and not limiting anyone from using the service. The services would all be coordinated by CATA.

Clerk Clark feels that the initial route to Market Place is not as critical to her personally unless the potential new apartment complex comes to be in the future and at that time the focus there increases as a priority. She would like to see people have the ability to get to and from work. The industrial park should be included for this reason. She purposes a full transportation millage be considered which would include road repair, snow removal and public transit. Clerk Clark believes the whole picture needs to be addressed not just piece by piece.

Manager Watkins said that in light of the county millage at 1.5 mills proposed for this fall would certainly benefit Delta if however directly billed and received by Delta.

Treasurer Pizzo stated the ride rate for Delta would be twice that of a City of Lansing resident for the typical rider with no discounts outside of the current proposal.

Clerk Clark said we also need to consider our businesses retaining employees, not just our residents. There are businesses that need workers and residents that need transportation.

Trustee Fedewa supports a global, comprehensive, long-term transportation plan. Trustee Fedewa would like to see a study on ridership expectations and need. A study would help in this regard. Are the businesses willing to contribute or partner to see this happen?

Manager Watkins is looking at a starting point with these proposals.

Supervisor Fletcher inquired from the individuals representing EATRAN for any feedback on the discussion that has taken place thus far. Donna Webb, General Manager of EATRAN, stated that the EATRAN Board is looking into a connector flexible route that would connect Eaton County residents in the rural part of the County to Delta Township. The individuals in the outlying areas of the County still need to be able to access Delta Township or Lansing areas. The connector route is still being explored and hoped to be implemented. A second consideration was bus shelters along the connector route.

Following a lengthy debate over the lack of continued negotiations between CATA and EATRAN, Supervisor Fletcher suggested EATRAN return to CATA for further discussion and in the interim, Delta will move forward as well with their current negotiations as presented tonight.

4. Draft Resolution in Support of Proposal 1 for the August 5, 2014 Ballot – Township Board

Jen Roberts presented a proposed resolution as drafted from various examples provided by the Mid-Michigan Municipal League. Jen Roberts provided this as a starting point.

Treasurer Pizzo feels the language is partisan. He does not feel that the partisan language should be included at the local level. He does support a “yes” vote.

Trustee Fedewa feels that the greatest impact will be the administrative burden to the Township Assessor and does not support the resolution.

Clerk Clark questions the long term effect to the Township should the legislation not pass from a financial impact. As a compromise, and the potential future risk, she would like to see a resolution passed by the Board. This resolution would be for the residents to see where the Board stands.

Trustee Hicks feels that a motion stating the Board supports voting in favor of the proposal is sufficient to notify the residents. This would resolve the issues noted above. Then each Board Member can convey their own message to their constituents as needed. This would be an alternative to working out satisfying language for a resolution that will not be mailed anywhere.

Clerk Clark will bring a motion to the floor at the next Board Meeting.

Jen Roberts suggested adding an education piece to the website following the Board’s motion. Clerk Clark indicated that Ted Droste has put a piece together that she can utilize for this purpose.

5. Board of Water & Light – Trustee Fedewa

Trustee Fedewa did go back and review the prior motion passed in February in regards to the Board of Water & Light. However, he remains concerned that the announcement regarding three non-voting members from the Mayor came after the February motion. Trustee Fedewa wants to see the rights and equity of Delta's rate-payers represented. Secondly, a citizen review team member appeared before this Board who encouraged the Board to keep the heat on the fire in this regard. Maybe a form other than resolution is an option such as a letter. Trustee Fedewa stresses that the residents should be served well as the Township Board Members are expected to do.

Trustee Kosinski agrees with Trustee Fedewa and feels the residents should have a representative with full voting rights. This would include acknowledging the proposal presented and the significant progress over the prior arrangement and raising the equity issue not previously challenged.

Supervisor Fletcher suggested Trustee Fedewa and Trustee Kosinski bring a proposed letter or statement back to the Board for review and discussion in the future.

Treasurer Pizzo shared with the Board that he is now the treasurer of Rotary.

Trustee Fedewa suggested a review of the strategic plan as follow-up to the last staff update. Discussion suggested completion of this review after the new manager is hired and the zoning plan re-write is completed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA

MARY R. CLARK, CLERK

KENNETH FLETCHER, SUPERVISOR